

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
EXPAND THE DISCRETIONARY
AUTHORITY OF THE U.S. TRADE
REPRESENTATIVE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to expand the discretionary authority of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to take action under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Specifically, the legislation would allow USTR to investigate and impose sanctions on countries whose trade practices are found to be unfair to U.S. interests by failing to enforce foreign country environmental laws. Specifically, USTR will have discretionary authority to take action if it finds a persistent pattern of conduct that indicates a trading partner:

(I) Fails to effectively enforce the environmental laws of a foreign country;

(II) Waives or otherwise derogates from the environmental laws of a foreign country or weakens the protections afforded by such laws;

(III) Fails to provide for judicial or administrative proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; or

(IV) Fails to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country.

This authority is very similar to existing authority held by USTR to enforce labor rights around the world.

My support for international trade agreements has always been predicated on the notion that agreements establish a fair, rules-based trading regime. The economy of my state is heavily trade-dependent. Oregon's iconic brands would not exist without strong international trading relationships. Oregon's largest private employer, Intel, is a product of the international market for high-tech products. The Port of Portland's distribution centers alone create 17,000 jobs, \$810 million in wages and other personal income, and \$2.8 billion in business revenues. Ensuring a level playing field in U.S. trading relationships is vital to protecting these jobs and to ensuring public support for a forward-looking, optimistic approach to trade policy.

Allowing our trading partners to derogate from their environmental laws provides an unfair advantage to their businesses and allows those businesses to unfairly undercut U.S. companies, which operate under strong environmental protections. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that trade remains free and open, but, in incorporating environmental and labor protections, also meets basic expectations of fairness.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE VICTOR
MICELI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of my friend,

Judge Victor Miceli, who served as Superior Court Judge for Riverside County, California for 15 years and dedicated his life to bettering the community around him. On Thursday, September 16, 2010, Vic passed away at the age of 82 with his wife of 49 years, Bernice, by his side. Though Vic has passed on from this life, he leaves a lasting legacy in Riverside, the community he loved so dearly.

Vic graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1952 and went on to serve in the Army as a judge advocate general and later practiced civil law in a private practice. Although he originally hailed from Meadville, Pennsylvania, Vic came to Riverside after having been appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1986 by former California Governor George Deukmejian.

When he retired from the bench in 2001, Vic's work in the community was far from over. Vic turned his focus and efforts to the restoration of downtown Riverside, including the \$24.7 million renovation of the 1903 beaux-arts Riverside Historic Courthouse, which was rededicated in 1998 and complied with new earthquake standards. Vic himself has attributed this as his proudest professional accomplishment. He also advocated for a new federal courthouse in Riverside, and the transfer of the 4th District Court of Appeal, Division Two headquarters from San Bernardino to Riverside. Additionally, he was a dedicated partner in the preservation and continued care of the historic Evergreen Cemetery.

Vic did so much for the community, the term the "Micelian Footprint" was coined, affectionately referring to Vic's ability to positively influence whatever he touched. In fact, 101-year-old retired Appellate Justice John Gabbert called Vic the person who has done more for the community in his lifetime, and said his contributions were "beyond measure."

Despite his passion and gusto, Vic always had a way of charming those around him—and perhaps that is what helped him get so much done. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor and optimistic outlook on life just as much as his drive to accomplish projects and lead others.

Although his career flourished, Vic always put his family first, and set aside time every summer to take his two sons on road trips around the country. His wife remembers him as the kindest and most generous husband.

Vic is survived by his wife and their two sons, Victor Miceli II and John Michael Miceli.

On behalf of all those who knew him, it is an honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of my friend Victor Miceli. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON
THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Independence, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, located in my District. History reveals how Independence, the county seat, grew

from a village, to a town, to the fourth largest city in Missouri. Civic leaders joined together to create a forum for the maintenance, growth and economic stability of the city. The Chamber has played a vital role in providing vision which helped to tackle the hard economic problems of the day. Today's Chamber is comprised of a "... partnership of more than 1,200 business and professional people committed to making a difference in the community."

Following its founding in 1920, the Chamber constitution encouraged its members "to promote the civic, economic, and social welfare of the people of Independence and vicinity" with membership open to all interested people. Colonel William Southern, Jr., who began publishing the Jackson Examiner in 1898, served on the original Board of Directors and holds the honor of being the first Board President of the Chamber. Due to the continued quality of leadership, the Chamber's involvement is respected on every issue from legislative initiatives to promoting pride in the city.

Throughout its 90 year history, the Chamber has initiated and supported local programs for economic development, public education, and general community quality of life. Working as a cohesive body with its Board, staff and members, the Chamber strives to provide a better quality of life for its citizens. Historically, they have campaigned to improve infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, annexation, transportation, parks, education and tourism. Through a variety of methods, they have achieved their objectives through bonds, fundraisers or by launching programs to benefit the citizens of Independence. "Put Us to Work" was one program initiated during the depression to coordinate all civic relief efforts and employment assistance for its citizens. We should recognize organizations like the Chamber of Independence as they help our communities find solutions to our current economic challenges.

When Harry S. Truman came home from serving in World War I, he came home to Independence, Missouri. When he was contemplating a run for Eastern District Judge, he went to Col. Southern for support. After serving as President, he once again returned to Independence. The Chamber honored him as a lifetime member of the Independence Chamber in 1945. Later, out of respect and admiration, the Chamber proudly supported fundraising efforts for the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library.

Madam Speaker, please join me in extending my warmest congratulations to Dr. Patty Schumacher, Chair of the Board, and Rick Hemmingsen, Chamber President, for the many accomplishments of the Independence Chamber of Commerce on this, their 90th Anniversary. The Chamber's work and dedication on behalf of the City of Independence has truly bettered our community. I urge my colleagues to join me in showing our appreciation to all its members, past and present.

HONORING THE 5TH STRYKER
BRIGADE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 5th Stryker Brigade,